

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01357 301414Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /107 W
-----013047 301425Z /64

R 301305Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7735
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1357

DEPT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, SHUM, SF
SUBJ: LABOR REFORM: HOMELAND BLACKS TO BE DENIED TRADE UNION
RIGHTS

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 1254, (B) JOHANNESBURG 0917

1. SUMMARY: THE SAG PATTERN OF CONTRADICITION AND VACILLA-
TION IN REMOVING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS WAS CONFIRMED ONCE AGAIN BY LABOR MINISTER
BOTHAS STATEMENT IN THE SENATE THAT HOMELAND CITIZENS
WILL NOT BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO JOIN SOUTH AFRICAN
TRADE UNIONS. IF CARRIED OUT, THE EFFECT OF THIS
POLICY WOULD BE TO NEGATE THE GRANTING OF TRADE UNION
RIGHTS FOR BLACKS PROMISED BY THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION ON
LABOR REFORM. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01357 301414Z

2. DURING THE SENATE DEBATE ON THE LABOR BUDGET VOTE
ON MAY 24, MINISTER FANIE BOTH DOUBTED WHETHER
"FOREIGN BLACKS" WOULD EVER BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO JOIN
SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS. IN SAYING THAT BLACKS WHO
COME TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SELL THEIR LABOR WILL HAVE NO
CLAIM TO TRADE UNION PROTECTION UNDER ANY NEW DEAL,

BOTH CONFIRMED THE FEARS OF MANY THAT THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION COULD RESULT IN FURTHER RESTRICTIONS FOR BLACK WORKERS RATHER THAN A RELAXATION OF CONTROLS (REF B).

3. UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION ACT, BLACKS ARE CURRENTLY EXCLUDED FROM BELONGING TO REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS. THEY, THEREFORE, CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WHITE, COLORED AND ASIATIC WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS ON WAGES AND WORK CONDITIONS. UNREGISTERED BLACK UNIONS CAN, HOWEVER, CONCLUDE SEPARATE CIVIL LAW AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYERS COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF WAGES AND WORK CONDITIONS.

4. ONE OF THE DECLARED GOALS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S SYSTEM OF APARTHEID OR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IS FOR ALL BLACK PERSONS TO BECOME CITIZENS OF HOMELANDS, EFFECTIVELY MAKING THEM FOREIGN BLACKS IN THE COUNTRY OF THEIR BIRTH. VIEWED WITHIN THIS RULING IDEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK, MINISTER BOTHA'S ANNOUNCEMENT MEANS THAT THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION COULD PRODUCE YET ANOTHER TIGHTENING OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL EXCLUDING, EVENTUALLY, ALL SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS FROM THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. BOTHA PROMISED TO MAKE KNOWN, WITHIN A MONTH AFTER THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION'S REPORT ON LABOR LEGISLATION, NOW EXPECTED IN OCTOBER (REF A), WHICH PROPOSALS HE INTENDS TO ADOPT. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT INSTEAD OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JOHANN 01357 301414Z

ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION, FUTURE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES COULD PERPETUATE IT.
JOHNSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, TRADE, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JOHANN01357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-1243
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978058/aaaaagrd.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2992aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JOHANNESBURG 1254, 78 JOHANNESBURG 917
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2753665
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR REFORM: HOMELAND BLACKS TO BE DENIED TRADE UNION RIGHTS
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2992aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014